

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 124

To provide for the mandatory licensing and registration of handguns.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 2003

Mr. HOLT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide for the mandatory licensing and registration of
handguns.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Handgun Licensing
5 and Registration Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL HANDGUN LICENSING AND REGISTRA-**
2 **TION SYSTEM TO APPLY IN ANY STATE THAT**
3 **DOES NOT HAVE A HANDGUN LICENSING AND**
4 **REGISTRATION SYSTEM THAT MEETS CER-**
5 **TAIN REQUIREMENTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United
7 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing:

9 **“§ 931. Licensing and registration of handguns**

10 “(a)(1) The Attorney General shall establish a Fed-
11 eral system for the licensing and registration of all hand-
12 guns owned, possessed, or controlled in the United States,
13 which shall include a method for easily retrieving informa-
14 tion sufficient to identify—

15 “(A) each resident of a State to which this sub-
16 section applies who owns, possesses, or controls a
17 handgun; and

18 “(B) the handgun.

19 “(2) It shall be unlawful for a person to own, possess,
20 or control a handgun in a State to which this subsection
21 applies unless the person—

22 “(A) is licensed to do so by the system estab-
23 lished pursuant to paragraph (1); and

24 “(B) has registered the handgun with a Fed-
25 eral, State, or local law enforcement agency.

1 “(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply in a State if there
2 is in effect a certification by the Attorney General that
3 the State has in effect a system for the licensing and reg-
4 istration of handguns owned, possessed, or controlled in
5 the State that—

6 “(1) includes a method for easily retrieving in-
7 formation sufficient to identify—

8 “(A) each resident of the State who owns,
9 possesses, or controls a handgun in the State;
10 and

11 “(B) the handgun; and

12 “(2) at a minimum, imposes criminal penalties
13 on any person who owns, possesses, or controls a
14 handgun in the State, and who—

15 “(i) has not completed training in firearms
16 safety;

17 “(ii) is not licensed by the State to possess
18 a handgun; or

19 “(iii) has not registered the handgun with
20 a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agen-
21 cy.

22 “(c) A certification under subsection (b) with respect
23 to a State shall have no force or effect on or after the
24 date the Attorney General finds, after an opportunity for

1 a hearing on the record, that the State does not have in
2 effect the system described in subsection (b).

3 “(d) The Attorney General shall prescribe such regu-
4 lations as may be necessary to carry out this section.”.

5 (b) PENALTIES.—Section 924(a) of such title is
6 amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(7) Whoever knowingly violates section 931(a)(2)
8 shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not less than
9 15 years, or both. The court shall not suspend a sentence
10 of imprisonment imposed under this paragraph or impose
11 a probationary sentence under this paragraph.”.

12 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
13 for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

“931. Licensing and registration of handguns.”.

15 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
16 this section shall apply to conduct engaged in after the
17 2-year period that begins with the date of the enactment
18 of this Act.

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